



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Arlington Town Hall

Attending: Maryellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Phil Tedesco, Ed Trembly, Brian Turnbaugh, Mara Vatz; Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre

Agenda

1. *Approve October and November Meeting Minutes.* Need to fix formatting edits and numberings of items on October minutes. Change the Oct minutes to "Town Counsel".
APPROVED with above edits.
November minutes. APPROVED
2. *Design Initiatives in Town with potential to impact trees*
 - Broadway Corridor/MIT Study Group. Written report being available next week. Mara attended their presentation on Dec 2. More idealistic than realistic but a good academic exercise.
 - Broadway Plaza Redesign/Tree planting on Mass Ave. Mike R brought it up with Tim L. MWRA needs to do excavating to update underground infrastructure and plaza will be resurfaced. Eliza will follow up with planning department and request a meeting with engineers/landscape architects hired to redesign plaza.
 - Mugar. This long-discussed 40B project in E Arlington had a public ZBA hearing on Dec 10. Susan and Eliza attended. Development Company Oaktree, their attorney and ecological and traffic consultants were present. Arlington Selectmen expressed their opposition to the project due to the location near wetlands and the ongoing flooding concerns in region. Due to limited time for public input at meeting, no public statement was made by ATC members about tree bylaw. Susan believes the project may have submitted its application in Aug 2016 just prior to the passing of town tree bylaw. Additional public meetings will be held in the spring after new ecological studies are completed on the property. As an exercise, ATC member Steve M did a rough estimate of value of trees in the buildable portion (7 ac out of 17 ac) of parcel; probably roughly \$8-10 million.
 - Apothca. Apothca is a dispensary that will move into Swifty Printing and they would like Tree Committee/Tree Warden input on what to plant. Eliza recommended that developers need to seek professional landscape architects or designers to consult on trees. While it is great to include Tim in discussions about new trees, selecting trees shouldn't be the tree warden's job. Tree recommendations suitable to Arlington are available on our website. Should we have a link on our website to landscape professionals as well as arborists? BSLA, Houzz, etc
3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Info Packet for Builders at Inspectional Services and letter to Developers. Maryellen presented a draft packet consisting of 4 items:
 - Draft letter to developers
 - Sample tree plan by Sally N
 - Annotated bylaw
 - Construction guidelines
- We requested that Tim carefully read draft and make comments. Others were asked to review it as well. Deadline for comments on packet by Dec 31.
- ACMI; volunteers to work on a Trees promo piece? Not discussed
- Other topics: Gas Leaks; Zoning; Stormwater grants. Not discussed.
- ATC will submit Annual Report with DPW; due Jan 15. Not discussed

4. *Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2020/Timeline for promotion.* No discussion

5. *Roles and Responsibilities.* Limited discussion

- Website update; volunteer to review; update Arborist list and add link to landscape professionals that could assist with tree identification/landscape consultations

6. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*

- New and current town projects involving trees
 - Broadway Plaza. Tim met with the engineers to discuss the existing trees and explained that a public tree hearing would need to happen if trees are removed.
 - AHS. Tim met with the architects so they could discuss trees to be removed. Again, Tim explained that there would have to be a public hearing. **Action: Susan will talk to school committee about when next meeting is and whether we can talk trees.**
- Julie Coop is happy to look at our sycamore tree as a “Heritage Tree” but it doesn’t give the tree any special protections but only give town “bragging rights”
- Tree hearing(s). None
- Tree Bylaw activity. None
- Fall planting. Planted 150 trees, plus 4 new trees behind Library, for an annual total of 359 town trees. Tim submitted application for Tree City USA and for a Growth Award. These achievements would help the town acquire grants.
- Adam K collaboration. Tim is working with Adam to make a plan with gas task force to identify gas leaks in certain areas in town.
- EAB. Will start treating trees on Pleasant St and Mystic St in spring 2020.
- ATC Letter to DPW re: funding for additional watering/trucks. Not discussed
- Accounting for bylaw. Bylaw states that the fees generated from the Tree Bylaw on private property are supposed to be spent on planting trees in the vicinity of where they came down. Discussion ensued about how to more accurately track income and expenses from the Trees Please Fund. Steve M willing to assist in this effort. Susan has reached out to Adam C to ensure that we are complying with bylaw in terms of accounting procedures.
- **Action: Tim will bring this accounting concern up with Mike and Teresa.**

7. *New Business*

- Correspondence to ATC received since last meeting. ATC was cc’d on letters expressing concern with the Broadway Plaza redesign.

- Tree walk by Barrett Tree East. They offered to lead a walk or tree-related program to the community. Discuss more next month
- Pam H and tree lined corridor. No discussion
- Grants? No discussion

Next meeting: January 8, 2020.